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EXAMINER	
SARPONG, AKWASI	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/05/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/796,181	TANI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	AKWASI M. SARPONG	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-92* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-92* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *10 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *12/12/2005 and 03/10/2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

9DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (7228339) in view of Iwamura (6807285).

Claims 1-4 Yamamoto discloses an image processing method which uses an image processing apparatus **(Remote Printer, Fig.3)** for receiving color image data so as to store the data into a storage section **(Storage service, Fig. 3)** and then performing the output processing of the color image data **(Fig. 12, Picture M9)** stored in said storage section, **(Col.18 Lines 33-67 and Col. 19 Lines 1-38-thus Yamamoto discloses clearly a method that shows how users sent an image data (Picture M9) to a printer)** said method comprising the steps of

authenticating the requestor of the output processing of the received color image data; **(Col. 7 Lines 43-60, Fig. 1 El. 33-thus the user has to issue a password and ID for it to verify before access is granted).**

extracting the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed; and stopping the output of the extracted received color data or image. **(Col. 18, Lines 30-50, thus when the information sent by the user does not match with**

the one stored in memory-hence authentication is not complete and therefore the process of requesting a print is stopped, the whole image is not printed or outputted)

Yamamoto does not discloses that a specific color portion is extracted and stopped from being outputted-(printing or displayed)

Iwamura clearly teaches extracting a specific color portion **(the specific portion is interpreted as either a confidential or embedded information as disclosed in Col. 9)** of the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed and stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion. **(Col. 8 lines 41-67 and Col. 9 lines 1-55, thus in order to make the either a confidential or embedded information known to the public, (out to the public means that outputting the information to the user) the public key information needs to be entered and verified to be correct).** Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to modify Yamamoto's remote printing section to include Iwamura's discrimination circuit 202 which embeds just the confidential information in image G so that only the confidential part of the image will not be known to the public as disclosed by Iwamura in Col. 1 Lines 30-50.

Claims 5-8 An image processing apparatus for receiving color image data so as to store the data into a storage section **(Storage service, Fig. 3)** and then performing the output processing of the color image data stored in said storage section,

(Col. 4 lines 3-25, Fig. 1 Clearly shows that the image is sent to the storage sever and eventually printed in El. 11) said apparatus comprising:

an authenticating section **(Fig. 1 El. 21)** for authenticating the requestor of the output processing of the received color image data; **(Col. 4 Lines 49-53-thus the users are verified before access is granted to the user).**

an extracting section for extracting the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed in said authenticating section; and an output stopping section for stopping the output of the received image data. **(Col. 18, Lines 30-50, thus when the information sent by the user does not match with the one stored in memory-hence authentication is not complete and therefore the process of requesting a print is stopped, the whole image is not printed or outputted)**

Yamamoto does not discloses that a specific color portion is extracted and stopped from being outputted-(printing or displayed)

Iwamura clearly teaches extracting a specific color portion **(the specific portion is interpreted as either a confidential or embedded information as disclosed in Col. 9)** of the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed and stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion. **(Col. 8 lines 41-67 and Col. 9 lines 1-55, thus in order to make the either a confidential or embedded information known to the public, (out to the public means that outputting the information to the user) the public key information needs to be entered and verified to be correct).** Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to modify Yamamoto's remote printing section to include Iwamura's discrimination circuit

202 which embeds just the confidential information in image G so that only the confidential part of the image will not be known to the public as disclosed by Iwamura in Col. 1 Lines 30-50.

Claims 9-12, Yamamoto **(Col. 4 Lines 16-25, Fig. 1 El. 20-thus both the personnel and the image is stored in a different sections of the data storage section)** in view of Iwamura wherein said storage section comprises: a semiconductor storage device for storing the specific color portion of the received image data; and a magnetic storage device for storing a non-specific color portion other than the specific color portion of the received image data.

Claim 13-16, Yamamoto (Col. 7 Lines 35-45-thus the data are temporarily stored) in view of Iwamura further comprising a deleting section for deleting the specific color portion which is stored in said storage section and the output processing of which is completed, once the output processing is completed.

Claim 17-20, Yamamoto **(Col.5 Lines 42-51, Fig. 1 El. 22)** in view of Iwamura further comprising an encrypting section for encrypting the specific color portion to be stored into said storage section.

Claim 21-24, Yamamoto **(Fig. 4, El. P51 clearly shows that print data are received when they are sent by the user)** in view of Iwamura, further comprising a specific color reception section for receiving the specification of a specific color.

Claim 25-32, " wherein importance levels are set for said specific colors" reads on Imamura's fig 5 since it breaks the image data into various parts.

Claim 33-36, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura **(Col. 9 Lines 11-16, Fig. 5-thus the embedded information is extracted from the image data and therefore it is part of the Character portion of the image)** discloses wherein said specific color portion is a character portion in a specific color.

Claim 37-40, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura **(Col. 9 Lines 11-16, Fig. 5-thus the embedded information is extracted from the image data and therefore it is part of the Character portion of the image)** discloses, wherein
said specific color portion is a graphics portion containing a specific color.

Claim 41-44, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura **(Col. 13 Lines 4-20)** wherein said output stopping section replaces the specific color portion with a predetermined mark.

Claim 45-48, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura **(Col. 6 Lines 45-65-thus the discrimination circuit takes the confidential and the non-confidential sections and**

therefore shows the user which side of the image data is for the public and which are secret) discloses a notifying section for notifying the output stop of the specific color portion, when the output of the specific color portion is stopped.

Claim 49-51, Yamamoto discloses an image processing apparatus for receiving color image data so as to store the data into a storage section **(Storage service, Fig. 3)** and then performing output processing **(Printing)** including the transmission of the color image data stored in said storage section, **(Col. 4 lines 3-25, Fig. 1 Clearly shows that the image is sent to the storage sever and eventually printed in El. 11)** said apparatus comprising:

a destination storing section **(Fig. 1 El. 20)** for storing a destination to which the transmission of a specific color portion of the received color image data is allowed; **(Col. 4 Lines 5-15)**

an extracting section for extracting the specific color portion of the received color image data, when the destination of the received color image data is not stored in said destination storing section; and an output stopping section for stopping the output of the specific color portion extracted by said extracting section. **(Col. 18, Lines 30-50, thus when the information sent by the user does not match with the one stored in memory-hence authentication is not complete and therefore the process of requesting a print is stopped, the whole image is not printed or outputted)**

Yamamoto does not discloses that a specific color portion is extracted and stopped from being outputted-(printing or displayed)

Iwamura clearly teaches extracting a specific color portion **(the specific portion is interpreted as either a confidential or embedded information as disclosed in Col. 9)** of the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed and stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion. **(Col. 8 lines 41-67 and Col. 9 lines 1-55, thus in order to make the either a confidential or embedded information known to the public, (out to the public means that outputting the information to the user) the public key information needs to be entered and verified to be correct).** Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to modify Yamamoto's remote printing section to include Iwamura's discrimination circuit 202 which embeds just the confidential information in image G so that only the confidential part of the image will not be known to the public as disclosed by Iwamura in Col. 1 Lines 30-50.

Claim 52-56, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses wherein said output processing includes the transmission of the image data, and wherein said apparatus further comprises an encrypting section **(Yamamoto: Fig. 1 El. 22)** for encrypting the specific color portion of the image data to be transmitted. **(Yamamoto: Col. 5 Lines 14-25-thus the secret or confidential data are password protected or encrypted)**

Claim 57-62, Yamamoto **(Fig. 1 EL 23 shows clearly that the image data is transmitted to a printer)** in view of Iwamura discloses a transmitting section for transmitting specific color information concerning the specific color.

Claim 63-66, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses an image processing apparatus for receiving color image data so as to store the data into a storage section **(Storage service, Fig. 3)** and then performing output processing including the transmission of the color image data stored in said storage section or alternatively the transmission with the exclusion of a specific color, **(Col. 4 lines 3-25, Fig. 1 Clearly shows that the image is sent to the storage sever and eventually printed in El. 11)** said apparatus comprising:

an acquiring section (**Fig. 2 El. 13-thus the data is acquired by the user entering the information into the system)** for acquiring the received color image data **(Col. 5 Lines 29-41-thus the data is uploaded in to the system)**

a destination storing section **(Fig. 1 El. 20)** for storing a destination to which the transmission of the specific color portion of the received color image data is allowed **(Col. 4 Lines 5-15).**

Yamamoto does not disclose that a specific color portion is extracted and stopped from being outputted-(printing or displayed)

Iwamura clearly teaches extracting a specific color portion **(the specific portion is interpreted as either a confidential or embedded information as disclosed in Col. 9)** of the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed and

stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion. **(Col. 8 lines 41-67 and Col. 9 lines 1-55, thus in order to make the either a confidential or embedded information known to the public, (out to the public means that outputting the information to the user) the public key information needs to be entered and verified to be correct).** Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to modify Yamamoto's remote printing section to include Iwamura's discrimination circuit 202 which embeds just the confidential information in image G so that only the confidential part of the image will not be known to the public as disclosed by Iwamura in Col. 1 Lines 30-50.

Claims 67-71, Yamamoto **(Col. 5 Lines 1-10-thus the personnel information entered which is used for authentication are extracted and kept confidential)** in view of Iwamura discloses wherein said specific color information is added to the received image data, while said acquiring section acquires the specific color information added to the received image data.

Claims 72-78, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura **(Col. 8 Lines 37-51-thus the picture shown in Fig. 11 comprises a lot of colors)** discloses wherein a plurality of colors are used as said specific color.

Claims 79-84, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses an information processing apparatus comprising:

a reception section for receiving specific color information concerning a specific color (**Yamamoto: Fig. 4 El. P51 shows clearly a section that receives the transmitted object)** and

a converting section for converting into said specific color a predetermined color in the image data to be transmitted to said image processing apparatus **(Yamamoto: Col. 5 Lines 40-51) .**

Claims 85-92, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses an information processing device that further comprising

an adding section for adding the specific color information received by said reception section to the image data to be transmitted**, (Yamamoto: Col. 5 Lines 1-10- thus the personnel information is added to the image data to be transmitted)** wherein said information processing apparatus transmits the image data to which the specific color information is added by said adding section **(Fig. 1 El. 23 shows clearly the transmission section of the system).**

Response to applicant's remarks

The remarks filed on 05/30/2008 by the applicant was considered but was not persuasive.

Regarding each independent claim 1-8. 49, 50 and 63-66, applicant argues that there is nothing disclosed in Yamamoto et al. regarding extracting a specific color portion of received color image data depending upon whether or not a requestor (user)

is authorized (has valid ID and password). In addition, there is nothing disclosed in Yamamoto et al. regarding stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion when performing the output processing of the color image data stored in the storage section, or alternatively, the output processing with the exclusion of a specific color.

In reply, Examiner respectfully disagrees because Yamamoto discloses extracting and stopping the **whole** image from outputting if authentication is not completed. Yamamoto does not extract part of the image **(Col. 4 Lines 49-67, thus the personnel authentication section determines among the users which is legitimate and which is not through a valid ID and a password) (Col. 5 Lines 29-51, thus the encryption and decryption section restrict the whole image data not a specific portion as cited in the claim)**.

It is agreed that Yamamoto does not teach extracting or restricting a specific portion of the image data instead the process of printing is ended if authentication is not completed and therefore the whole image data is stopped from printing when the user is found to be not legitimate.

Iwamura discloses an extraction section that depending on requestor (user) information provided (password and user ID) a specific portion of the image data is made accessible to the public. **(Col. 9 Lines 20-55, Fig. 5, thus the discrimination circuit discriminates between the confidential and non-confidential portion or region of the image data)**. Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yamamoto's restriction section to include

Iwamura's specific image portion that extracts or discriminates between the confidential and non-confidential image (specific and non-specific image data) so that the user has the option of just restricting a specific portion of the image.

The confidential portion of the image data is not allowed because the user was found not to be legitimate and therefore that part or portion is stopped from been outputted.

Applicant also argues that both Yamamoto and Iwamura has no specific disclosure or suggestion regarding extracting a specific color portion of received color image data depending upon whether or not a requestor is authorized.
In addition, there is nothing disclosed in Iwamura regarding stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion when performing the output processing of the color image data stored in the storage section, or alternatively, the output processing with the exclusion of a specific color.

In reply, Examiner respectfully disagrees in the view of the fact that Iwamura discloses clearly regarding extracting a specific color portion of received color image data depending upon whether or not a requestor is authorized. **(Iwamura: Col. 9 Lines 20-54, fig. 5, thus the discrimination extracting circuit 202 extracts the confidential data from the non-confidential data where the confidential or non-confidential data can be the specific color portion of the color image data).**

(Iwamura: Col. 6 Lines 7-30, thus the public key is used a means of verifying whether or not the user or requestor is legitimate and therefore makes the user or requestor authorized).

Note: As also explained previously, **(Col. 4 Lines 49-67, thus the personnel authentication section determines among the users which is legitimate and which is not through a valid ID and a password) (Col. 5 Lines 29-51, thus the encryption and decryption section restrict the whole image data not a specific portion as cited in the claim)**.

Applicant also argues that Yamamoto et al and Iwamura do not discloses "authenticating the requestor of the output processing of the received color" and "extracting a specific color portion of the received color image data, and performing the output processing of the color image data without the extracted color portion, when the authentication is not completed ",

Examiner respectfully disagree because Yamamoto teaches authenticating the requestor of the output processing of the received color" **(Yamamoto: Col. 4 Lines 49-67, thus the personnel authentication section determines among the users which is legitimate and which is not through a valid ID and a password)**

"extracting a specific image data of the received color image data, and performing the output processing of the color image data without the extracted color portion, when the authentication is not completed ", **(Yamamoto: Col. 5 Lines 29-51, thus the encryption and decryption section restrict the whole image data when**

the authentication is not complete meaning the requestor or the user was found to be not legitimate, restricting the whole image or refusing to output the whole image means to stop the extraction of the image data).

Applicant also argues that Yamamoto at al. and Iwamura do not disclose that the storage database that the storage section comprises a semiconductor storage device for storing the specific color portion of the received image data, and a magnetic storage device for storing a non-specific color portion other than the specific color portion of the received image data.

In reply: Examiner respectfully disagrees Iwamura discloses a storage database that the storage section comprises a semiconductor storage device for storing the specific color portion of the received image data, and a magnetic storage device for storing a non-specific color portion other than the specific color portion of the received image data. **(Iwamura: Col. 19 Lines 63-67, thus a magnetic-optical disk is inherently made of magnetic component which is used to store image information) and (Yamamoto: Col. 3 Lines 20-35, thus the consumed disk is inherently made of semi-conductors).**

Regarding Claims 57-62 applicant argues that Yamamoto et al and Iwamura do not disclose a specific color portion of received color data and the references do not

disclose "a transmitting section for transmitting specific color information concerning the specific color".

In reply: Examiner respectfully disagrees because Yamamoto et al and Iwamura discloses clearly a specific color portion of received color data **(Iwamura: Col. 9 Lines 20-54, fig. 5, thus the discrimination extracting circuit 202 extracts the confidential data from the non-confidential data where the confidential or non-confidential data can be the specific color portion of the color image data).** and a transmitting section for transmitting specific color information concerning the specific color. **(Col. 7, Lines 60-67, Fig. 1, El. 22 and 34, thus the transmission sections mentioned transmits image data to their destination).**

Regarding Claims 67-70 applicant argues that Yamamoto et al and Iwamura fails to teach a specific color portion of received color image data, the references do not disclose "said specific color information is added to the received image data, while said acquiring section acquires the specific color information added to the received image data".

In reply, examiner respectfully disagrees because Yamamoto et al and Iwamura discloses clearly that said specific color information is added to the received image data, while said acquiring section acquires the specific color information added to the received image data". **(Iwamura: Col. 9 Lines 20-54, Fig. 5, thus the discrimination**

extracting circuit 202 extracts the confidential data from the non-confidential data where the confidential or non-confidential data can be the specific color portion of the color image data and also both the confidential and the non-confidential are acquired together before the discrimination circuit extracts the confidential from the non-confidential and therefore the specific color information is added to the received image data).

Regarding Claims 71-78, applicant argues that since Yamamoto et al and Iwamura refuses to disclose anything regarding a specific color portion of received color image data, the references do not disclose "a plurality of colors are used as said specific color".

In reply, Examiner respectfully disagrees because Yamamoto et al in view of Iwamura disclose a specific color portion of received color image data, and a plurality of colors is used as said specific color". **(Col. 17, Lines 23-30, thus the printing system is capable of printing a color image and therefore the image data is made up of information of different colors)**

Regarding Claims 79-84, applicant argues that Yamamoto in view of Iwamura do not teach or disclose a specific color portion of received color image data, the references do not disclose "a reception section for receiving specific color information concerning a specific color, and a converting section for converting into said specific

color a predetermined color in the image data to be transmitted to said image processing apparatus".

In reply, Examiner respectfully disagrees because Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses clearly a reception section for receiving specific color information concerning a specific color, and a converting section for converting into said specific color a predetermined color in the image data to be transmitted to said image processing apparatus". **(Col. 7 Lines 60-67, thus as the print data is transmitted to the storage there is a receiving section that receives the print data and also when the print job is been transmitted to the remote printer there is a receiver section that receives the printer data as well as a converter that converts the image data to bitmaps for processing).**

Regarding Claims 85-92, applicant still argues about Yamamoto in view of Iwamura refusing to disclose a reception section for receiving specific color information concerning a specific color of the image data to be transmitted, and said information processing apparatus transmits the image data and the specific color information received by said reception section".

In reply, Examiner respectfully disagrees due to the fact that, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses clearly a reception section for receiving specific color information concerning a specific color of the image data to be transmitted, and said information

processing apparatus transmits the image data and the specific color information received by said reception section".**(Col. 7 Lines 60-67, thus as the print data is transmitted to the storage there is a receiving section that receives the print data and also when the print job is been transmitted to the remote printer there is a receiver section that receives the printer data as well as a converter that converts the image data to bitmaps for processing).**

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKWASI M. SARPONG whose telephone number is

(571)270-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

AMS
02/22/2008

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKWASI M. SARPONG whose telephone number is (571)270-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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